

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:

an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;

a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and

means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein

said warping changes with time during playback of the video image.

20. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:

an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;

a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and

means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple said video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein

said warping is selected randomly from among a plurality of mapping functions pre-stored in a playback unit.

21. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;
a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and
means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein
the image is warped by compressing spacing between pixels in one direction and expanding spacing in another direction.

22. (Previously presented) A playback unit in accordance with claim 19, wherein said warping changes upon scene change of said video image.

23. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;
a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and
means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein
said warping is defined by a geometric transformation.

24. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;
a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and
means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein
said warping is derived by backward warping of a two-dimensional geometric transformation of said video image.

25. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;
a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and
means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein
said warping is performed by a three-dimensional transformation of said video image.

26. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;

a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and

means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein

said warping is described by a linear function.

27. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:

an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;

a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and

means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein

said warping is described by a quadratic function.

28. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:

an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;

a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream; and

means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video

image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer, wherein
said warping is described by a spline function.

29. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;
a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream;
means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer; and
means for applying a motion vector to pixels of said video image for image transformation.

30. (Previously presented) A playback unit, comprising:
an input for receiving an encoded data stream bearing a video image;
a decoder for decoding the encoded data stream;
means for imparting a prescribed transformation to the video image for warping the video image in a manner, and by an amount, not readily visible to a viewer such that a composite video image produced by multiple video playback units will be distorted and the distortion of the composite video image can be seen by the viewer; and

means for performing different image transformations in different regions of said video image.

31-61 (Cancelled)